

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert a paragraph at page 1, before line 4, as follows:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a Continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/794,619, filed February 28, 2001, which is a Continuation of PCT Application No. PCT/JP00/04206, filed June 27, 2000, and claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 11-181453, filed June 28, 1999.

Please amend the paragraph at page 1, line 23, to page 2, line 19, as follows:

As is widely known in the art, a single mode optical fiber, having a zero-dispersion within the wavelength band in the vicinity of the wavelength of  $1.3\mu\text{m}$ , has been established on a global scale as the transmission network for optical communication. However, in the case that the previously established single mode optical fiber having a zero-dispersion in the vicinity of  $1.3\mu\text{m}$  is utilized and wavelength division multiplexed transmission is carried out by using the wavelength band in the vicinity of  $1.3\mu\text{m}$ , the  ~~$1.5\mu\text{m}$~~   $1.55\mu\text{m}$  wavelength band, which is the gain band of a conventional optical amplifier, and the wavelength band do not agree with each other. Therefore, the problem arises that a conventional optical amplifier cannot be utilized for the wavelength division multiplexed transmission which uses the above described single mode optical fiber and, subsequently, long distance optical communication becomes difficult. Here, the above used term, " ~~$1.5\mu\text{m}$~~   $1.55\mu\text{m}$  wavelength band," means a wavelength band of which the center is approximately the wavelength 1550 nm, such as from 1530 nm to 1570 nm, and hereinafter the term, the  ~~$1.5\mu\text{m}$~~   $1.55\mu\text{m}$  wavelength band, is used with this meaning.

Please amend the paragraph at page 10, line 17, to page 11, line 8, as follows:

In addition, recently it has become required to further increase the amount of information communicated. Taking this into account, when the wavelength division multiplexed transmission is carried out by only using the ~~1.5 $\mu$ m~~ 1.55 $\mu$ m wavelength band, there is a limit to the number of wavelengths which can be sent, which eventually causes saturation at a certain point. Therefore, a new optical transmission line is required which can make the 1.5 $\mu$ m wavelength band a utilizable wavelength band by expanding the utilizable wavelength band for the wavelength division multiplexed transmission to include the wavelength bands on both sides of the conventional ~~1.5 $\mu$ m~~ 1.55 $\mu$ m wavelength band (for example, 1530 to 1570 nm). Here, the 1.5 $\mu$ m wavelength band denotes a wavelength band including the conventional 1.5 $\mu$ m wavelength band, such as 1520 to 1620 nm, and hereinafter the term 1.5 $\mu$ m band is used in this sense.